

64-24 Bingo-1020 Apex Locator (Project 01-30) (1/02)

The Bingo-1020 Apex Locator (AL) from Dent Corp is a portable, microprocessor-controlled, endodontic apex locator. The unit uses two connectors to obtain its measurements: one attached to a clip placed on the patient's lip and the other attached to an endodontic file. Dent Corp claims that the apex



locator is capable of measuring in 0.1-mm increments and operates accurately regardless of root canal condition (e.g. dry, or wet with blood, purulence, etc.). The Bingo uses a proprietary algorithm called Root Wizard to track and display the file's position on a 3¼"W X 2"H liquid crystal screen that has five different display modes

Notably, the unit can also display an enlarged apex view that shows the file tip's location relative to the root end. Audible signals sound as the apex is approached, and a warning tone combined with a red visual reading indicates an overinstrumented apex. The Bingo is 6¼"L X 3¼"W X 1"H and weighs 9½ oz. A foldable plastic support on the back of the Bingo allows the provider to position the unit at three different angles to facilitate viewing.



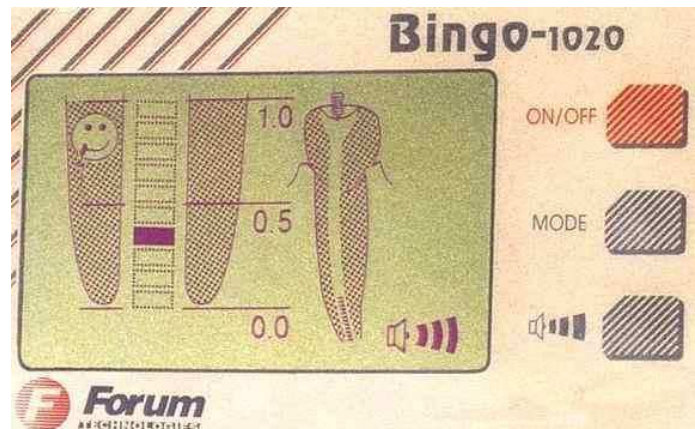
Manufacturer:

Dent Corp
7-11 South Broadway
White Plains, NY 10601
(800) 454-9244
(914) 682-6600
(914) 948-1711 FAX
www.dentcorp.com

Suggested Retail Price:

\$799.00 Bingo-1020 Apex Locator (item no. 1020), contains:

- Bingo unit
- patient lip clip
- endodontic file clip
- instructional/operation manual



Government Price:

\$639.00 Bingo-1020 Apex Locator (item number and contents as listed above)

ADVANTAGES:

- + Excellent auditory and visual cues.
- + Extremely simple to use.
- + No calibration required prior to use.
- + Foolproof cord connections.
- + Measurements were found to be very accurate when the device was operating consistently.
- + Very accurate with straight anterior teeth.
- + Facilitated pain-free treatment while determining apex location.
- + Can use either 3.6-volt NiMH or NiCd battery.
- + Small size facilitates cleaning, storage, and increases portability of the unit.
- + Minimal learning time required to operate unit.
- + Less expensive than some other currently available models.
- + Easy to sanitize.

DISADVANTAGES:

- Erratic and unreliable readings were frequently reported.
- Gave unreliable readings when used in a dry canal.
- After the "low battery" indicator light comes on, readings are very inconsistent.
- No trouble-shooting guide is provided with unit.
- Instructions for use and for tutor mode are inconsistent.
- Battery specified in user manual did not match battery in unit.
- Replacement batteries may be difficult to locate.
- Small size and light weight could allow unit to be pulled off stand while in use.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS:

The Bingo-1020 Apex Locator received mixed results from the clinical-user testing. One user would purchase the unit, while the other would not. Instructions for use were found to be inconsistent. One provider had to frequently verify readings with radiographs because readings were inconsistent (i.e., erratic) in tight-curved spaces and in teeth that had cast crowns or large amalgam restoration. However, when the unit provided consistent readings, they were found to be extremely accurate. Consistent readings were most often reported on anterior teeth. The Bingo AL is extremely simple to use and requires no calibration prior to use. The **Bingo-1020** Apex Locator is rated **Acceptable** for use by the federal dental services.